

Hi my name is Michael Matovu, a member of RACCE, and a resident of the town of Seymour, Connecticut, I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning School Resource Officers (SRO's), and I am here before you today to talk about why School districts should be required to have non security responses to nonviolent student disruptions.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure, and supported in their places of learning. But the "student resource officers" aka Police officers pose a real danger to the Black and Brown students the officers are put in these schools to protect. The police is supposed to be this protective force sent to these schools to act as a resource to the children at their lowest, but instead they've morphed into what they've always been, a reactionary force. Policing our children does nothing in molding our students to become the productive members of society you want them to become. We must work to hire actual professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources, rather than continue funding institutions (police officers) that seek to profit from students being at their lowest.

This legislation, being proposed, would strengthen current law by increasing transparency and accountability for SRO's by ensuring their roles and responsibilities contained within the mandated memorandum of understanding will be accessible for students, parents, and educators (lines 7-10). According to the state of connecticut Judicial Branch, from August 2021 to June 2022, School based arrests in urban city schools have been leading in arrests in the state of connecticut, Waterbury leading in the board amongst the other schools listed.

So in conclusion I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that centers the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and even better end in the unlawful targeting of our black and brown students, the students who put their trust in the educational systems hand.

Thank you for your time, Michael Matovu